

THE
POICTOVINS:
OR, THE
HISTORY
OF THOSE
STRANGERS;

(VIZ.)

How they were at first introduced into *Eng-
land* in the Reign of King Henry III.

How they Ingrossed that King's Favours, and
Assum'd his Regal Power.

How they Sold all Places.

What Troubles followed.

How they were called to Account, Squeezed,
and sent Home, or Banished.

L O N D O N,

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LONDON

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THE

POICTOVINS.



THE Country of Poictou being a Province of France, situate between the English Dominions there, called Guienne and Gascoigne, which were often infested by the French, and that often embroiled the Poictovins: And tho' King Henry's Defences of Guienne and Gascoigne were generally unfortunate, yet the Poictovins chose the side of England, and put themselves under the Protection of King Henry the Third, adding their Country to his Dominions.

This so elated that King, and he took it for such an Honour, that he received the *Poictovins* into uncommon Grace and Favour.

The Four principal *Poictovins*, were Peter de Rupibus Bishop of Winchester, Peter de Rivaulx alias Rivallis, Stephen de Segrave, and Robert de Passelen.

To these Four *Poictovins* King Henry allow'd an Appartment in the Royal Palace, where they assembled every Morning, under the Notion of the Foreign Ministry, to consult about the Affairs of their little Country of *Poictou*; but, in reality, to dispose of the *English* Affairs.

Some of these *Poictovins* had every Morning the first Access to King Henry, and sometimes stayed long, whilst the *English* great Men waited without, like Daily Waiters, till the *Poictovins* Business was concerted and resolved.

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The *English* great Men afterwards had Admittance to King Henry, to talk over again what the *Poictovins* had before possessed him of.

Peter de Rivaulx alias Rivallis, one of the Four principal *Poictovins*, was in his Person a short square black Man, with a chubbed foure Countenance, but generally covered with a Smile, especially when he designed to pick an *Englistman's* Pocket, or slander him to the King.

There was one Monsieur Robuston, who acted as a Secretary to the Four *Poictovins*, being a bulky robust Man, with a melancholy saturnine Face, sometimes swelling like a T--d. He was in great Favour, but not inferior to any in ill-Nature to the *English*, being himself a *Frenchman*, born at *Paris*, bred under a Tyrannical Government, where he suck'd in Slavery with his Milk, and that produc'd in him a natural Hatred and Aversion, and even Insolence towards the Free-born *Englist*.

King

King Henry being an Indulgent Con-
stituted Prince, did, in a manner, delegate to
these Poictovins his Regal Power, and the
whole Administration of his Government,
giving them Authority to dispose of all sorts
of Places within his Dominions; for which
Purpose they made the Royal Palace no better
than a Warehouse swarming with Poictovin
Brokers, where the first Question was, *What*
is the Value of the Place you desire? The
next Proceedings may be easily guessed at.

The Poictovin Ladies took no small Delight
in these Brokage Bargains, accounting it the
highest Felicity to be fingering the English
Money, in which they were assisted by their
Procurator General Monsieur de R--y, who
assumed the Title of *Domini Capitalis Brocator*
Robinson.

These Poictovins had so appropriated the
Regal Power, that the Services of any Eng-
lishman were of no Value, neither was any
Englishman accounted an honest Man with
King Henry, unless some Poictovin would
vouchsafe to give the Character; which no

Poictovin

Poictovins would do, without being well paid for the Favour. Money therefore was the sole Merit any *Englishman* could pretend to with Effect; for the best Bidder never failed to find the most Favour, and the best Success.

The *Poictovins* procured the Royal Dispositions of being Pleas'd and Displeas'd, so be, by a sort of Transmigration, plac'd in them; for as They were Pleas'd or Displeas'd, so was King Henry.

This sort of Administration, in a few Years produced in the Minds of Men different Affections: In the *Poictovins*, Pride, Insolence, and a secret Contempt of the *English*. In the *English*, not only a suitable Hatred, Aversion, Uneasiness, and Readiness to vomit the *Poictovins* out of the Nation, but a Fear of being rooted out Themselves to make room for the favoured *Poictovins*.

The *Poictovins* were but a Heavy-headed sort of Men: But after they, by this Method, had first stript the *English* of their Money, and had learned the Value of the Places, the

the Places became their own Desire; and then they thought fit to strip the *English* of the very Places they had before bought and paid for, and placed themselves in their rooms.

And to the End a sufficient Number of these *Poictovins* might be had to supply the Places of *Englishmen*, they were invited over with great Kindness, as if the whole Country was to be their Portion and Inheritance, and to be Peopled and Planted with them, and the *English* rooted out.

The *Poictovins* at first conveyed themselves over privately, like Spyes and Stragglers; but finding and tasting the Fatness and Sweetness of the Land, they crouded over in Swarms, and devoured *England*; for they became so numerous, that an Army was composed of them, which marched into *Wales*, and seized and got into their Possessions the Estates of the great *Strongbow*, then Earl-Mareschall of *England*, and drove him into *Ireland*, where, according to Measures concerted between the *Poictovins* and the *Irish*, he was basely insnared, surprized, and murdered. This the *Poictovins* did, tho' the Father of this very Earl

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Earl-Mareschall was that great *Englishman*, who adhering to *Henry's* Succession, when he was a weak, helpless Infant of Ten Years old, drove out the Pretender *Lewis* of *France*, and his *French* Invaders, and placed on the Head of King *Henry* the Crown of *England*.

The *Poictovins* endeavoured to do the like by all such *Englishmen* as would not come into their Measures, and truckle to their imperious and corrupt Administration.

This Management produced Heats and Expostulations on the part of the *English*. To which the *Poictovins* insolently replied, *What did their Laws, or Statutes, or Customs of the Kingdom concern them? They valued them not!*

The Nobles and great Men addressed King *Henry*, representing the *Poictovins* illegal Administrations, and complaining of the Alienation of his Affections from his own Natural-born *English* to these Strangers, and petition'd him to send them Home.

To this Address, *Peter de Rupibus* Bishop of *Winchester* (one of the *Poictovins*) on the
B Behalf

Behalf of King Henry, and in his Presence, gave an Insolent and Arbitrary Answer, which will be better apprehended from reading the History it self, than from a Repetition in this Place.

King Henry, by these Means, lost all Credit and Reputation with the *English*, and, in Exchange, got nothing but Disesteem and Weakness in his Government, insomuch that his Necessities obliging him to call Parliaments, the *English* thereby came into Opportunities to shew their Grievances and Resentments: And therefore, in regard the whole Government was administred by *Poictovins*, and the *English* thrust out, the Nobility and great Men refused to appear either at Court, in Company with the *Poictovins* their new Governors, or in Parliament; and instead of their Attendance, they, to secure themselves in their Possession of *England*, and to prevent their own Extirpation and Banishment out of it, they sent King Henry a Message, That if he did not send the *Poictovins* Home, they would by Force drive those wicked and mercenary Councillors and Ministers out of the Kingdom.

Upon

Upon the Whole, the corrupt and illegal Administration of the *Poictovins* raised such a Tempest in the *English* Nation, that the Government, like a Ship at Sea, was tossed with the Waves of Discontent, and in danger of being dash'd in pieces: And the Storm could never be quieted, 'till King *Henry*, the Master and Commander of the Ship, for his own Safety, and to prevent his own sinking, took these *Poictovins* and cast them out of the Ship, or, in other Words, he called them to an Account, squeezed out of them (what part he could of) their ill-gotten Money, and then Banished or sent them Home to *Poictou*, commanding them never to see his Face more; and the Storms thereupon ceased, the Sea calmed, and the Ship rode in Safety.

If the Precedent proved so effectual and wholsome in Old Times, why should it not be practised in After Times, if ever it becomes necessary, for the quieting and removing the universal Discontents of the Nation.

If an Act of Parliament, at the time when *Poictou* was added to King *Henry's* Dominions, had

had been made, Enacting, That Poictowin
(tho' afterwards Naturalized) should not be
of the Privy-Council, nor should enjoy any
Office, nor have any Grant of any Digni-
ty, &c. in England or Ireland, it is probable
the English Nation wou'd not, for so long
Time, have endur'd these open and avowed
Breaches of such an exprefs Poictowin Contract,
if such a one had been previously made before
their Reception into England.

F I N I S.

